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# MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE

VOICE OF THE FOOTHILL COUNTRY

Where History is Pride

Flomot Matador Northfield Roaring Springs

SOUTHWEST COLLECTION  
Texas Tech University  
LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409

\$ .75



Thursday, December 15, 2011

ESTABLISHED 1891

Volume 120 Issue No. 50

## Commissioner's Court meets in regular session Court Denies TXDOT Resolution

By Carol Campbell  
Motley County Tribune

The Motley County Commissioner's Court met December 15, 2011, in regular session, covering a 16-item agenda, including a unanimous decision to deny a TXDOT Resolution in support of a \$4.3 million project in Motley County.

Attending were Commissioners Franklin Jameson, Roy Gene Stephens, Donnie Turner, and Russell Alexander with County Judge Jim Meador presiding. Also in attendance were Deputy Clerk D'anna Russell, County Attorney Tom Edwards, and Sheriff Chris Spence. Minutes of the November regular meeting and a Called Special Session to canvas votes from the recent election, were unanimously approved. There were no speakers for Public Comment. In the first order of business, Commissioner Russell Alexander rescinded his formal resignation from the court.

Then, District Design Engineer Chuck Steed, Childress District, addressed the court asking for support of a project in the form of a Resolution to "rehabilitate and widen FM 94, 7.5 miles south of Northfield at a state-approved cost of \$4.3 million." The project would flatten two "reverse curves" to meet design standards for a 70 mph day and night highway, Steed said.

"TXDOT has to build roads as safe as possible to our design standards," he said. "This

is the first part of a plan to rehabilitate FM 94 all the way to Childress."

"The additional right-of-way will take about 10 acres," Steed added. TXDOT has met with Commissioner Franklin and Susan Jameson, the primary landowners in the area. "I personally think this is a waste of taxpayer money," Franklin Jameson said.

In a telephone interview Susan Jameson, said, "It would entail tearing out an old concrete culvert, which according to the engineers, is structurally sound; and then a new one would be built through a dirt pond that is currently used for cattle water.

"The reason TXDOT gave us for the new construction was to increase the speed limit on the curve," Susan Jameson said, adding, "There has not been a wreck on this curve in more than 50 years. I feel like the government could spend their dollars more wisely."

In a follow-up telephone interview with Chuck Steed, he said, "this project will bring construction dollars to the county and make it safer for the traveling public." Short of saying the project would be canceled, Steed said that his design team would have to "revisit the design and see what other options were available."

In other business, Judge Meador announced that the Texas Department of Public Safety (TDPS) had issued the county \$6,275.03 in disaster relief funds associated with wildfires in Motley Coun-

ty. These are federal funds passed through the TDPS.

Emergency Management Coordinator Lee Jones spearheaded the effort to submit the paperwork to receive the funds, Judge Meador said. The county will receive \$1,963.55 for labor, administrative fees, and equipment; Roaring Springs Fire Department (FD), \$420; Flomot FD, \$420; Floydada FD, \$350; Turkey FD, \$350; and Matador Fire Department, \$2,421.48.

Judge Meador asked the court for a vote to enable the county to receive fees for the Issuance of Permits for the sale of alcohol. "We need to adopt this measure in order to collect a portion of the fees for permits to sell beer and wine," he said. Currently, Chillerz, Alsups, and Lowes have requested permits. Hotel Matador has asked for a permit for consumption on premises. Permits are \$120.00 each, and the county portion would be one-half or \$60.00. At the end of the month, the county will receive a 5-percent commission for handling the permits.

The final agenda item included a short discussion on the County Audit, currently being conducted by Dianne Washington, CPA. According to Judge Meador, Washington needed more information from various departments in the courthouse. She said she is running two audits at the same time, and that a draft copy would be available by the end of the month.

## TxDOT Targets Holiday Revelers with Anti-Drunk Driving Blitz

AUSTIN, TX - With the holiday season upon us, the Texas Department of Transportation is pulling out all of the stops to remind motorists not to get behind the wheel if they've been drinking and to find a sober ride home or call a cab.

Throughout the month of December, convenience stores, bars and restaurants, gas stations - even movie theaters - in major Texas markets will carry TXDOT's campaign messages, urging Texans to celebrate responsibly.

Santa's reindeer will adorn bar coasters, pint glasses, bathroom mirror decals, digital signs over bathroom urinals, street posters, and gas pump nozzles. The reindeer's message will read, "Don't drive if you're tipsy, buzzed or blitzed. Call a cab or get a sober ride home."

Santa himself is getting in on the action this year, with a brand new interactive "31 Days of Holiday Cheer" calendar. Each day unlocks games, recipes, tips, and videos to make the season merry and bright, all with the reminder to keep the holidays happy and plan a sober ride. Facebook users can engage with the new content at [www.facebook.com/SantaInTexas](http://www.facebook.com/SantaInTexas).

"The holidays can mean many things to Texans, including family dinners, office Christmas parties and New Year's Eve festivities. As we celebrate the season, we're encouraging motorists to keep

the holidays merry and to plan a sober ride home," said Carol Rawson, TXDOT Traffic Operations Director. "That's why, throughout the month of December, 'don't drink and drive' reminders will be popping up online as well as at locations where alcohol is served or purchased."

This year's campaign is supported by new Driver Awareness and Attitudes survey results, which indicate that fewer Texas motorists are drinking and driving. Indeed, according to the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) survey conducted this summer, motorists are now more likely to designate a sober driver, call a friend or family member, stay put, or to take a taxi or public transportation than to drive while impaired.

Approximately 75 percent of the survey respondents reported they had been exposed to an impaired driving message within the past 30 days.

TxDOT, which commissioned the TTI survey in partnership with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, has good reason to celebrate these findings.

"After years of working to educate the public on the importance of planning ahead instead of driving while impaired, these survey results highlight that our public advocacy campaigns are working," added Carol Rawson, TXDOT Traffic Operations Director. "We're thrilled that

Texas motorists are retaining the message that alcohol and driving don't mix and that drunk driving will not be tolerated on our roads."

Far from resting on its laurels, however, TXDOT will be working with police departments and sheriff's offices across the Lone Star State to reduce impaired driving throughout the holiday season. Law enforcement statewide will be working overtime to find and arrest impaired drivers from now through New Year's Day.

The Texas Restaurant Association, the Texas Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association, the Texas Package Store Association, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission and the Texas Municipal Police Association are all working with TXDOT to help distribute holiday impaired driving prevention messages.

Convicted first-time DWI offenders face a fine of up to \$2,000, loss of their driver's license for up to a year, and up to 180 days in jail. Safety officials say other costs associated with an impaired driving arrest and conviction can add up to more than \$17,000 for bail, legal fees, court appearances, court-ordered classes, vehicle insurance increases, and other expenses.

In 2010 there were 3,024 fatalities on Texas roads, 1,102 were the result of alcohol-related crashes. This

## Motley County Matadors defeated by Richland Springs 76-28

By Charli Bigham  
Motley County Tribune

The Matadors were defeated by the Richland Springs Coyotes 76-28 Saturday night for the Sixman Division II State Championship.

The Matadors represented our school with pride and determination and never showed a sign of quit until the game was over. "Our boys fought until the bitter end," said Coach Bigham.

"We felt like we had a good chance to play with them, but turnovers and missed opportunities kept us short on many drives," Bigham said. "We had a slow start to the game and when playing in the State Game that's never good. Richland Springs had the best team in the state and it showed."

"There are times in our careers when you have to call it like it is," Coach Bigham said, adding, "and be very proud of what you have accomplished."

"We have had an incredible run here the past five seasons

winning the State Championship in 2007; two consecutive semi-final appearances and returning to the State Championship game in 2011, Bigham said. "These boys have helped develop a solid football program and should be proud to hold their heads high the rest of their lives," he said.

"The 24 boys who made huge sacrifices throughout the past 15 weeks will always have the lasting memories of playing in the State Championship game and making this town, family, friends and supporters extremely proud. When the game had ended and our team was lined up to receive their medals a chant of: "We Are Motley" was starting to develop from our stands. As it became louder and louder I knew then that we have all made Motley County a very special place to be," said Coach Bigham.

"The coaching staff would like to thank everyone who helped make this season a success. We would also like

to thank the many loyal fans who traveled to every game to support us. Motley County definitely has the best fans in the state.

The Motley County Matadors received many offensive and defensive honors this season. These young men were very determined in their work ethic and game play and were rewarded accordingly.

The All-District and All-Region teams consisted of:

**First Team All District - Offense:** Offensive MVP: Aaron Rogers; Tight End: Christian Brooks; Quarterback: Braden Mason; Fullback: Augustine Chavez; Kicker: Juan Flores; and Running Backs: Jon Osborn and Austin Taylor

**Defense:** Defensive MVP: Juan Flores; Defensive Line: Britt Simpson; Line Backer: Augustine Chavez; Corner Backs: Jon Osborn and Austin Taylor; Safety: Aaron Rogers; and Utility Player: Schyler Tomlinson.

continued on page 3



Judge Meadow presented Larry Markham a Moore Maker knife engraved with his employment dates. Markham retired after 27 years with Motley County as the Maintenance Supervisor. The courthouse also presented Larry with a Hershey Bar Cake, courtesy of Brenda Osborn, wishing him "Good Luck" in his retirement

photo by Carol Campbell

# Foothill Country

## Connections

Community, Diversity, Art  
When you have history, you have pride.



By Laverne Zabielski

As a frequent driver across the country I always appreciate the ease with which we are able to travel along highways in the United States. Whether it is an interstate highway or a county road, I always feel safe knowing that the road has been efficiently designed. And as cars are developed to travel at higher speed, it makes sense that roads have to be improved to handle those speeds.

I'm surprised that the Commissioners' Court did not approve the resolution for the improvement of the FM94. In a conversation with District Design Engineer, Chuck Steed, he stated that the projected cost of the project for Motley County would be between \$1700 and \$2100. In addition these

improvements could mean the possible employment of local laborers, and there would be residual income for Motley County residents through the purchase of gas and visits to restaurants and businesses. While it may be true that there have been no accidents in the past, since the other counties have already signed on to the project, increased traffic and increased highway speeds may be in the future for those who use FM94.

The \$4.3 million dollars allocated is for this project only. If Motley County does not sign on, that money cannot be spent elsewhere in the county.

It makes sense to me that if the state has determined that a particular road cannot handle today's auto and truck traffic at the speed they travel, the County would not want to put its own citizens at risk traveling that road. True, it will require some landowners to sell about ten acres of their land to increase the right of way. I would hope that they would consider the safety of travelers who use the road. Saving the county \$2000 is not worth the risk of an accident that could have been avoided by the construction of a safer road.

# WRITING COMMUNITY

## Sometimes I wonder what Mom dreams about

By Beverly Zabielski Shorter

More and more often when she is asleep and I wake her up the look on her face reflects such peace. She looks at me as if I am someone that has gone on to heaven that she has not seen in a very long time and she is so relieved that they have finally showed up to get her. But then in a little bit she seems to realize it is just me, the peace drains from her face, and life goes on. In the info I have read it says that it is common for people in transition to see people that have gone before them so maybe that is what she is doing.

At least I like to think it is that because that is easier to swallow for me than to think she is laying there thinking, "Oh man, I hope I get a different person coming to work today to take care of me, I am so tired of looking at that same woman

all the time." Then when I come around the side of the bed, she looks with such anticipation, squeezes her eyes shut really hard a few times to focus, sees it is STILL me and thinks, "Oh my goodness it is STILL her!" ; )

Really though it was a pretty surreal moment this evening when I went to wake her up. For a few seconds it felt like that in that space I was sharing a moment in a place between Heaven and Earth. The lights in her room were low, her Christmas lights were on which make the star over her nativity scene really sparkle, and when I come to that side of the bed to wake her that is all behind me so maybe I might have had more of a glow. As I bent down over her bed to wake her, she opened her eyes and the look on her face

was so amazing, she was so happy and so at peace, she reached up to touch my face (remember, normally she has very little use of or control of her arms), I took her hand and started to talk to her, after about 30 seconds she seemed to realize it was just me and she had not yet "slipped the surly bonds of Earth" -John Magee, and her face lost the glow it had. I kind of feel bad for her when I see that disappointment to the point that I do not want to ever wake her up but then if I don't she might not ever really wake up but rather just sleep. I think now I am going to be more consistent in turning on the light and pattering around her room to see if she will wake on her own so I do not have to wake her and create that kind of disappointment again.

# Opinion Editorial

## Ensuring Death with Dignity

By Wendell Stephenson

Armond and Dorothy Rudolph -- 92 and 90 years of age, respectively -- didn't set out to make national news; but their story should serve as a clarion call for overhauling the conflicting, ambiguous and sometimes cruel regulations currently governing end-of-life decisions in this country.

Armond suffered from spinal stenosis, a narrowing of the spinal column that causes acute pain and numbness in the limbs. Dorothy was almost completely physically immobilized. Both had developed early-stage dementia.

In August, after consulting with family and friends, the Rudolphs decided to hasten their deaths by refusing food and water. Three days into their fast, they relayed their decision to administrators of their assisted living facility in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Although their decision was clearly within their legal rights, facility officials responded to the couple's in-

tentions by summarily evicting the ninety-year-olds from their apartment -- the very next morning. The Rudolphs resisted. So administrators called the police to have the couple forcibly transported to a nearby hospital.

The Rudolphs had no legal recourse to keep their apartment. Fortunately, with the help of their children, they were able to quickly relocate to a private residence. Assisted by hospice workers, they continued their fast. A week later, husband and wife -- married 69 years -- died within 24 hours of each other, surrounded by family.

There are thousands of Americans like Armond and Dorothy, burdened with painful, irreversible conditions and considering whether to hasten death. This population isn't "suicidal". They do not have an irrational desire to destroy themselves. They have already enjoyed full, long lives, blessed with love and happiness, and they know their time is at an end. They

see a dignified death as the natural and appropriate ending to a well lived life, when life as they knew it is no longer possible.

Instead of treating people like the Rudolphs with compassion and support, however, authorities believe that they are in a better position to make life decisions for these mentally competent adults. In fact, just three states -- Montana, Oregon, and Washington -- currently allow physician-assisted suicide. Some states are actually actively cracking down on organizations that provide support to people like the Rudolphs, who choose to hasten death. Notably, Georgia has made it a felony for an outside group even to talk with people about end-of-life options that include self-deliverance.

These restrictive regulations are morally wrong and they don't square with public opinion. Polls show that roughly 70 percent of American adults -- and about 60 percent of the elderly -- think

the terminally or irreversibly ill should have the right to end their own lives.

Currently, except for the three states mentioned above "voluntarily stopping eating and drinking" (VSED) is often the only legal, humane option patients have.

Done right, VSED can bring a safe and peaceful end; however, the process is relatively lengthy, between one and two weeks on average. To manage any pain, patients require sustained palliative care, which is often difficult and expensive to arrange -- 25% of individuals who choose this route have difficult and painful deaths. It is often devastating for their loved ones to watch individuals deny themselves food and drink for two weeks, even when those individuals have made a conscious choice to do so.

Americans facing end-of-life choices deserve other options. Inexpensive, safe, and pain-free alternatives exist. Yet, just months ago, the FBI, *continued on page 3*

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### MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE

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#### TASB Media Honor Roll

Houston Press Club Editorial Award Winner  
West Texas Press Association Member  
Texas Press Association Member



Award Winner

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# Motley County Shining Stars



Second Grade Studies Crystalline Shapes

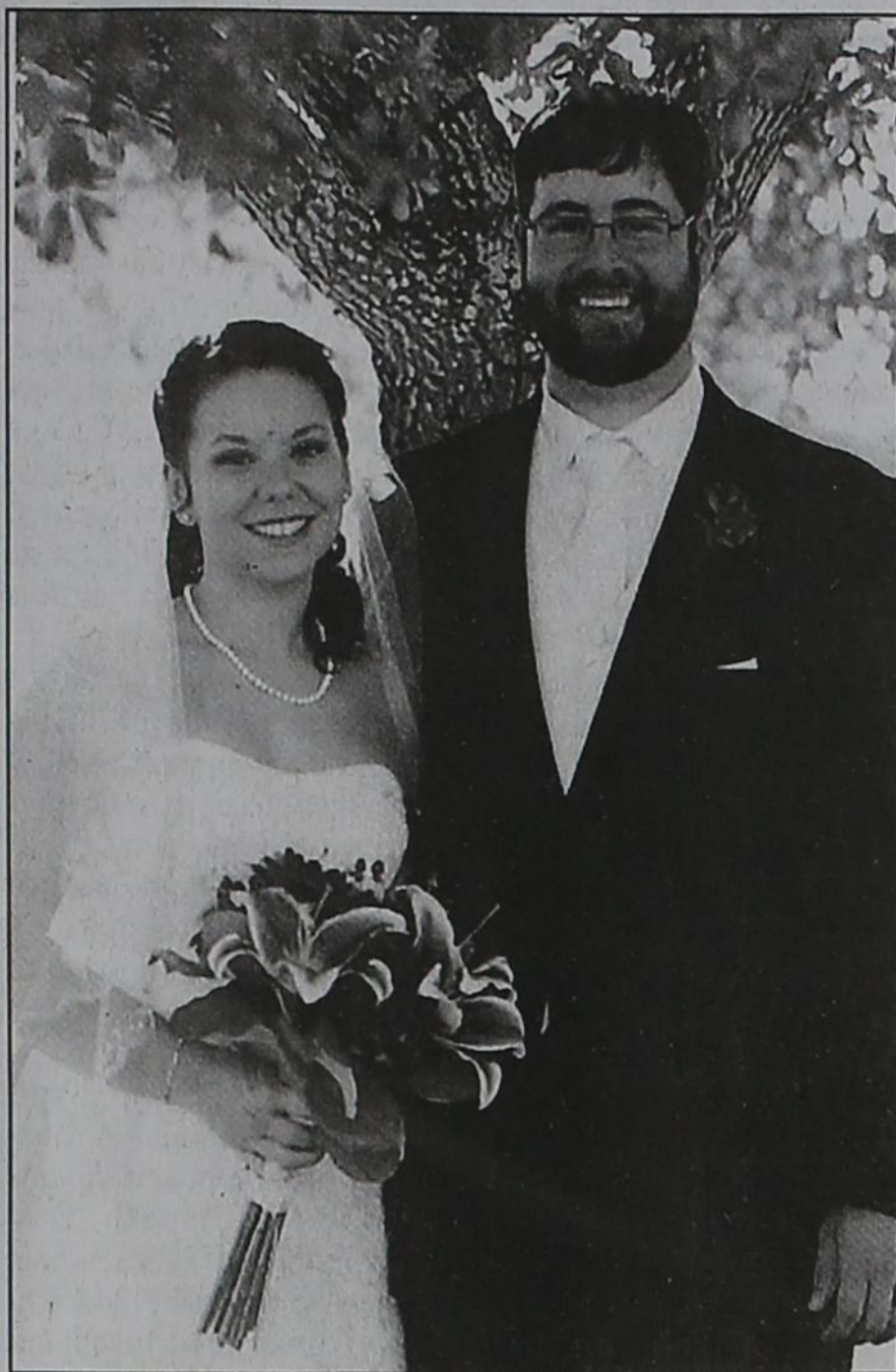
"Mystical Trees" are growing in the second grade classroom. The Upper Pease Soil and Water Conservation District supplied the kit that allowed the second grade students to study crystal formation and crystalline shapes.

The students are studying crystals and crystalline shapes as part of their elementary science lab. The kit allows the students to watch the crystals grow. After the growth of the crystals, the students use hand lenses to study the different shapes created by the "Mystical Trees".

The students and the teachers thank the Upper Pease SWCD for their assistance with materials for the elementary science labs. Hands-on activities allow the students to retain concepts better.



## Aleda Elaine Ross and Paul Batchelder wed



Aleda Elaine Ross became the bride of Paul T. Batchelder Jr., November 19, 2011 at a 3:00 p.m. ceremony at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Lacoste, Texas.

Paul is the son of Paul and Judy Batchelder of New Caney, Texas. The bride was escorted down the aisle by her father, Tom P. Ross.

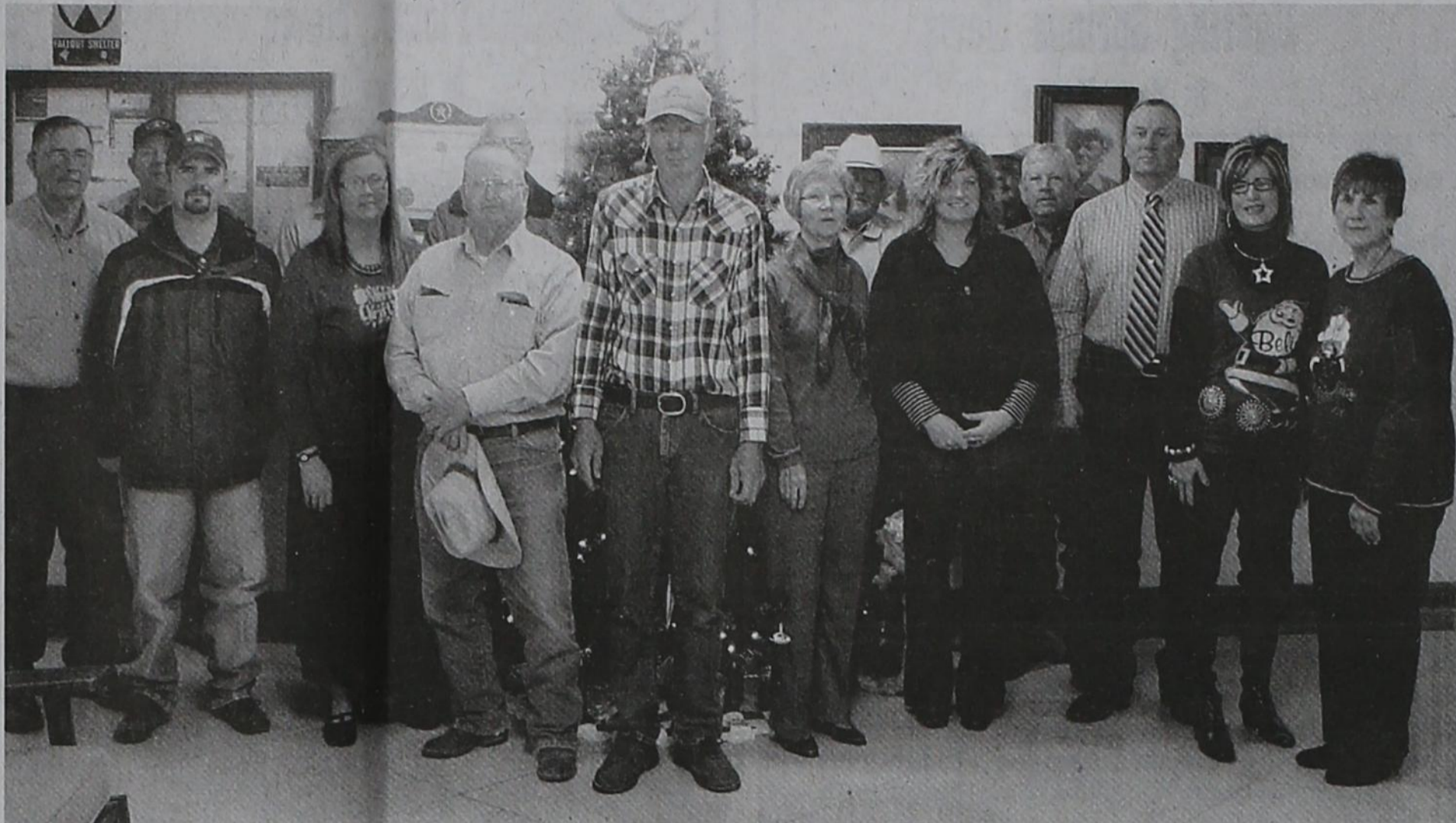
The Maid of Honor was Shelley Relue of Castroville, Texas. Bridesmaids were Celiasha Drake of Conroe, Texas; and Heather Chessher of Atascosa, Texas. Flower Girls were Anjoli and Elisa Ann Ross of Castroville, sisters of the Bride. Ciara Ross, sister of the Bride, assisted with the unity candles, as Mrs. Aleda Ross grandmother of the bride and Mrs. Judy Batchelder, mother of the groom lit each candle.

Best men were brothers of the Groom, Scott Batchelder, and Jacob Batchelder of New Caney, Texas. Groomsman was Brandon Key of San Antonio, Texas.

A reception followed after the ceremony in the room just off the church, where a meal was served. The bride and groom cut the cakes at the bride and grooms tables. A dance with a DJ followed.

The couple left for their honeymoon at the Excellence Resort, in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. They are now at home in Kingwood, Texas, where they both are affiliated with the New Caney ISD.

## Motley County employee annual Christmas Party



Pictured are the employees of Motley County at their annual Christmas Party combined with a retirement party for Maintenance Supervisor Larry Markham. Pictured (L to R) Back Row: Chris Spence, Dean Osborn, Chad Ware, Tom Edwards, Roy Gene Stevens, Donnie Turner, Franklin Jameson, Jim Meador, Carla Meador, and Elaine Hart. Front row: Ryan Martin, D'anna Russell, Billy Farley, Larry Markham, Eva Barkley, and Libby Cruse.

photo by Carol Campbell

## Opinion Editorial continued from page 2

Customs and other heavily armed law-enforcement agencies staged a dawn raid on the home of a 91 year old woman to stop her from making helium hoods (one such painless alternative) in this country. Charlotte Hydorn, of El Cajon, California was the only source for such helium hoods in the United States. The agents held handguns to her face in order to ensure "officer safety" as they "seized" her sewing machine. Ironically, guns are the method of choice in the vast majority of suicides, and yet increasingly, laws and court decisions are making firearms more readily available.

It is time for the nation to recognize the inconsistencies in our approach and the needless suffering to which many people are being condemned. People who make the decision for self-deliverance after much soul searching, consultations with medical staff and discussions with family and friends, deserve a dignified death free of pain and with loved ones at their side during the process. As we move into the second decade of the 21st century, it is certainly time for the legal views on suicide and the rights of individuals to reflect the views a majority of our citizens have held since the mid 20th century.

Wendell Stephenson is the president of the Final Exit Network. The website for the Network is [www.finalexitnetwork.org](http://www.finalexitnetwork.org).

Motley County Matadors defeated by Richland Springs 76-28 continued from page one

**Second Team All District - Offense:** Center: Cody Martin; and Fullback: Jamie Jameson.

**Honorable Mention:** Center: Coby Cochran

**First Team All Region - Six Man Coach of the Year:** Motley County Coaches

**Offense:** Offensive MVP: Aaron Rogers; Tight End: Christian Brooks; Center: Schyler Tomlinson; Fullback: Augustine Chavez; and Kicker: Juan Flores.

**Defense:** Defensive MVP: Juan Flores; Defensive Line: Britt Simpson; and Corner Backs: Jon Osborn and Austin Taylor.

**Second Team All Region - Offense:** Quarterback: Braden Mason.



## Main Street Café

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### Manger's Infant...and His Mission

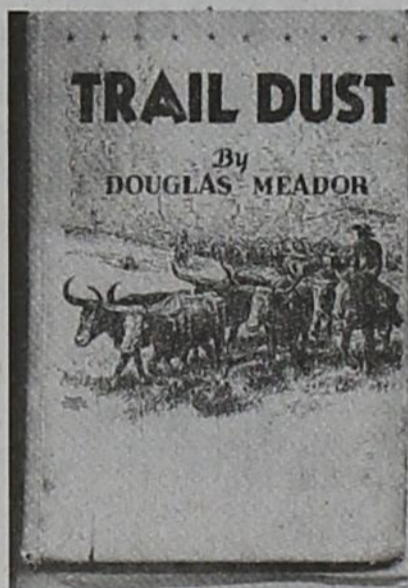


read that Jesus understood His purpose even at a young age. Which was to be about His Father's business. That business was redemption and its price.

In all of the scriptures there is never a hint of a lack of harmony in the will of the Godhead for the redemption of mankind. It would only taken only one cry from the suffering Son and the response of heaven would have been terrible indeed. But no cry came, only "not my will but thine be done". Then following that dreadful night, the Cross became history and the child of the manger achieved the eternal purpose.

For the apostle Paul tells us, "the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but unto us who are being saved it is the power of God". Calvin Miller, in his book "Once upon a Tree", explains the cross as "...the tangible, historical evidence that God loves us. It does not say why God loves us, but it does answer 'How much?' It all began for us with a new born child laid in a manger.

Roaring Springs Church of Christ  
Michael G. Crowley, Sr.  
BIBLE STUDY 10:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m.



Due to popular demand and many requests, *Trail Dust*, written and originally published in 1940 by Douglas Meador, Country Editor, Poet, Philosopher and the Sage of Matador, and with the permission and sponsorship of Mary Tipton Crider, sister of Mrs. Douglas (Lila) Meador, the family is having this well known book reprinted.

The reprint of the book, *Trail Dust*, by Douglas Meador, has been completed and would make a wonderful Christmas present. A limited number of books are available for \$19.95 plus shipping and handling.

For ordering info contact:  
Dale Nance  
P.O. Box 75  
Barksdale, TX 78828  
(830) 279-6403

# NEWS AROUND MOTLEY COUNTY

## Roaring Springs News

By Monta Marshall

### On a personal note

The Christmas concert at the Full Gospel Church was well attended. Greg Goodnight of Lubbock played beautiful Christmas Carols on his hammered dulcimer and on his harp. It would be hard to say which song was the most enjoyable. I love *Angels We Have Heard on High*, *Mary Did You Know?* and *The Little Drummer Boy*. *Silent Night* may be my most favorite. After the concert delicious holiday goodies were served in the fellowship hall. It was a special evening and one that certainly made one contemplate the real meaning of Christmas.

Usually I get so caught up in the 'to do' list at my house that I get tired and I am just ready for it to all be over. I suppose we only have ourselves to blame for allowing Christmas to be so commercial and every year bigger and better than the year before. This year is surely going to be different. I have a good excuse for not getting in the fray after being in a sling for two months and not driving, things just aren't getting done.

I like the suggestions of giving homemade items, gift certificates for special treats like nails being done, car washes, massage treatments, haircuts, and purchasing locally. Those hints take quite a bit of stress out of gift shopping. I have a project making gifts. Hopefully I will be finished in time for Christmas.

### In the community

Billy, Sherry and Ella Stocklin of Round Rock visited with Ralph Roming over the weekend. Ralph took them on tours of our area; they visited the Matador Ranch, the Springs Ranch Club, Caprock Canyon

State Park and did a good bit of just seeing the area. They came on Friday morning and returned to Round Rock on Sunday.

The Stocklins were guest at the Travelers Inn. They especially enjoyed the wonderful breakfasts Edith prepared for them. On Saturday evening they enjoyed steaks with Ralph, Monta and Corky Marshall at the Windmill Café.

On Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. the Lions Club members and their spouses will meet at Travelers Inn for their annual 'Ladies Night' event in the afternoon this year! This will be the regular 3:00 o'clock coffee time. Cake, coffee and ice cream will be served. There will be a drawing for the diamond ring that has been raffled by the Lions Club. The ring is gorgeous and would be a super gift for any lady! You can purchase tickets from a Lion up until drawing time.

I notice that there are still some names on the Angel Tree at the Windmill Café. If you would like to participate in providing gifts for children who might not receive a gift, please, go by and select a card with the information of gender, sizes and wants.

Our hearts were saddened to hear of the death of D'Ann Stocker of Afton and her grandson on early Sunday morning. It was extremely foggy up on the Cap Rock on Sunday. They pulled out in front of a semi-truck south of McAdoo. Many Tribune readers knew D'Ann. She worked at the Springs Ranch Office.

The Roaring Springs Lions and the Matador Lions will meet and put together Christmas boxes for shut-ins on Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Matador.

## Flomot News

By Earlyne Jameson

### Overheard

At Christmas when grandkids were young, I had lots of presents to stash. Now that they are tweens and teens, it is simpler to give them cash!

### Christmas tour of Branson

Arnold and Carolyn Johnson, his brother and wife, Rex and Cora Johnson of Silverton and their sister, Mrs. Mary Alice Scott of Amarillo were enthralled with the Christmas festivities and decorations from Tuesday until Sunday in Branson, Missouri.

They enjoyed the many entertaining celebrity Christmas shows including the Sho jo Tabuche concert. They were delighted and impressed with the two and half mile Shepherds of The Hills scenic display with the shimmering beautiful Christmas lights. Carolyn said the colorful tourist Christmas attractions throughout Branson were beyond description!

### Birthday Celebrated

Laughter, visiting a savory Mexican lunch and birthday cake brighten dismal weather Sunday when the birthday of Glen Calvert was celebrated. A chorus of Happy Birthday was sung and Glen received gifts and best wishes. Happy Birthday

was sung and Glen received gifts and best wishes. Family members attending were sisters, Mrs. Gwen Calvert, Sherrilyn Foster and husband, Dan of Lubbock and nephew, Justin Calvert of Dumas and his mother, Mrs. Mary Jo Calvert of Flomot who was the hostess.

The birthdays of Trent and Trevor Barclay, twin sons of Ty and Brittany Barclay, was celebrated Sunday in their home in Matador. They blew out their five candles on colorful decorated birthday cakes. Attending were grandparents, Sandra and Jerry Barclay and great grandmother, Mrs. Erma Washington of Flomot and cousin, Lane Barclay of Turkey.

The First Baptist Church in Flomot will have Candlelight Services at 6:00 p.m. Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. The public extended a cordial invitation to attend.

Visiting during the week with Janice and Butch Hughes were sons and families, Rickey, Tasha, Kendal and Kason, Roger Hughes of Floydada. Visitors Sunday were his sister, Mrs. Jean Cooper and grandson, Clay Cooper of Matador. Butch is still under medical treatment.

Donna Sue and Stanley Deagan of Calgary visited her mother, Mrs. B. Rogers and brother, Donnie Rogers Sunday. They brought lunch and put up Christmas decorations in her home.

## A Merry Holiday held at Do Gooders club Christmas

The community Center in Flomot Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 6 had a beautiful display of decorations when the Do Gooders' Club met for their annual Christmas party. Mrs. Kathy Shorter and friend, Mrs. Shonda Lee used their artistic talents throughout the building with colorful Yuletide arrangements.

One table held three sparkling Christmas trees in an unusual staggered position with surrounding gifts for a Chinese gift exchange. The refreshment table, over flowing with food served with Wassail and hot coffee, featured a silver runner, large red bows on each end on a white family heirloom cloth. Two large tables connected into a square where everyone sat, was laid with a green velvet cloth, centered with an antique family lamp with a red bow, encircled with silver limbs, greenery and pine cones.

Mrs. Waydette Clay opened the program with those attending relating amusing and sentimental stories of past Christmas events in their lives.

Adding to the Merry Christmas holiday, Waydette and Kathy sang harmonious duets of hymns, "I Am You Are" and "Born To Die". Everyone joined in when singing numerous Christmas carols. They left for their respective homes in

a joyful mood and from one of the best Christmas Do Gooders' Club observance on record.

Those attending the festivities were Mesdames Mary Jo Calvert, Cora Johnson, Anna Beth Clay, Susie Shannon, Waydette Clay, Barbara Payne, Tommie Jo Cruse, Kathy Shorter, Erma Washington and Connie Franks. Guests were Mrs. Carolyn Ewing of Matador and Mrs. Sherri McKay of Quitaque.

## Matador News

By Marilynn Hicks

I failed to include some important guests who visited with Caron and Jesse for Thanksgiving. They were Carolyn and Rocky Lucas and their son Scott and his daughter Kamryn and son Cason. Carolyn is Jesse's sister who lives in Lubbock - a gathering of some of the Whiteface natives.

Michael Pritchard from Abilene was in for a couple of days last week. He works in some capacity in overseeing the transmission line that is being built.

AEP had a supervisor in the office. Leticia Gustafson from Corpus Christi worked with Glenda Williams for two days. She comes every year about this time. Leticia reported that this is an easy stop since Glenda always has everything in order.

This was been a busy hunting weekend. In addition to regular hunters, the Hotel had three gentlemen who were hunting with Jeff Braselton. They were Bruce Burnhoft, Jay Dreibliss, and Joseph Hartsfield all of whom are from the Woodlands. They win the award for the first in the blinds since they left the hotel at 4:30 each morning. It must have been a good plan however because they all got deer.

Patrick Devaney and Jack Masterson brought their elementary age boys to hunt over the weekend. Ewing Devaney got a deer, and Jack Masterson had a great adventure. Ewing will start some new medical treatments this week, and so we need to offer up some special prayers for his continued progress. These visitors are from Cleburne and are regulars to our community.

A few college kids are beginning to drift in after finals. Bobbie Brown said that Chicagra and Brad would be staying in Amarillo to work. I know that Shanea and Kyla are working as well through the holidays. Let me know when kids arrive and how they are doing, and I will pass it along.

If you step into the Hotel,

the lilting Christmas music you will be hearing is performed by the Legacy Brass Quintet of which the brother of Pastor Patrick, FBC, is a member. He left some of the CD's in the shop if you want to add one to your home music collection. You will love these "Christmas Delights."

Joe and Alicejoy Taylor from Wichita Falls are hiking Caprock Canyons this week. I think they need an award for braving the elements. They came prepared and assured me it is better in cold than hot. He works as a nurse and has to plan outings around a varied and busy schedule.

Tony Rose gets an award for being a thoughtful husband. He surprised Sherry with a week in Hawaii. They are sunning on a beach this week while we are in the misty rain. (Understand that I am not fussing about the moisture).

Celebrating a birthday with family on Sunday was "Chig" Gwinn and his daughter-in-law, Lena. A chocolate cake was enjoyed by the honorees as well as Polly and children Chris and Reneigh. They even shared a piece of cake with Barbara Armstrong who was also a birthday girl on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Getaway weekends were enjoyed by Anthony and Amy Gordon from Lubbock and by Ynes and Chuck Alderson from Odessa. She works at UTPB and Chuck has his own insurance agency. I caught them on the couch watching Christmas movies and munching on snacks all covered in warm throws. I think they got the relaxing part down to an art form.

Visitors in the home of Tom and Deanie Edwards were Stephen, Lori and Haley Davis of Dalhart. They arrived late Friday evening to help Tom and Deanie host a party for some friends and they celebrated Stephen's birthday. Haley was in a band concert on Sunday evening in Dalhart and Stephen flew to Dallas with some friends to attend the Dallas football game.

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### This Week's Local Forecast



Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Mostly Sunny 54/32	Mostly Cloudy 43/30	Mostly Cloudy 40/34	Mostly Cloudy 51/35	Isolated Rain 48/39	Cloudy 45/38	Partly Cloudy 46/34

### Weather Trivia

Does lightning strike more women or men?  
ANSWER: Men get struck almost twice as many times as women.

### Weather History

Dec. 15, 1945 - A record December snowstorm buried Buffalo, N.Y. under 36.6 inches of snow, with unofficial totals south of the city ranging up to 70 inches. Travel was brought to a halt by the storm.

### Moon Phases

Last	New	First	Full
12/17	12/24	1/1	1/9



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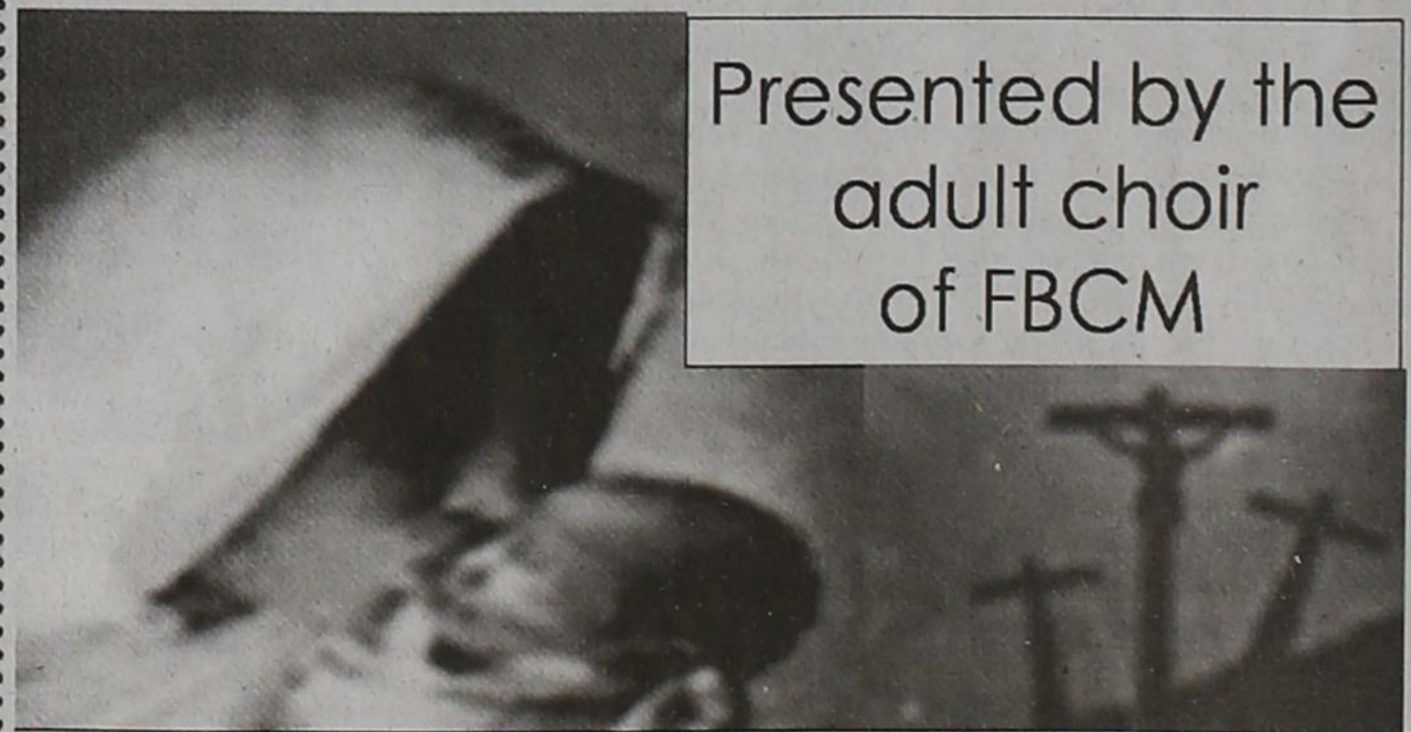
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You are invited ...

## Mary, Did You Know?


### Christmas Cantata, 11:00 a.m.

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Sunday, December 18  
First Baptist Church, Matador

Also... Journey to Bethlehem  
Children's Christmas program, 7:00 p.m.



*Library Journal*  
by Carla Meador Librarian

**County Agent's News**  
by Ryan Martin, Agri LIFE EXTENSION Agent



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"It don't look like I can keep you from throwin' me off all the time, but I bet them deer hunters will do it!"

Yikes!! As I look at the calendar to write this column, I realize how very close it is to Christmas! Where does the time go? I guess the old saying, "Time flies when you're having fun" is true, because we sure have a lot of fun in the Library and time has sure flown!

By the time you read this column we will have hosted our Children's Christmas afternoon. I look forward to working with the kids. They are so much fun and listen intently during storytime. I plan to have more fun kid events in the future. I will give a full report on our holiday afternoon in next week's column.

We have so many new books in the library ready to be checked out. Last week I listed several new ones. This week we have some great donations to add to the list including *The Broken Hearts Club*, a thriller by Ethan Black; *Demon Rumm*, a captivating novel by Sandra Brown; *Count Down*, a forensics thriller by Iris Johansen; *Nighttime is My Time*, a riveting novel of psychological suspense by Mary Higgins Clark; *Shadow Dance, Fire and Ice* and *Sizzle* by Julie Garwood. We thank Debra Scott for her generous donation of these books.

A big thanks also goes to Mr. Stephen Taylor of Austin, who mailed us another box of great books. We appreciate the fact that Mr. Taylor remembers us here in good old Motley County. He always has some great books and I will have those listed as soon as I get them cataloged into our

system.

Our Book Sale is still in progress. So, if you haven't had the chance to stop by and check out the great selections, you still have the chance to do so. And, now everything is two for the price of one! There are still plenty of great books to choose from!

With the hectic schedule of the last couple of weeks, I have neglected to keep up with my test of knowledge for our contest. I have been pleased to learn how many of you are reading this column with the comments that have been made regarding the lack of our contest quote. I can't tell you how much I appreciate your readership. This week's quote is from another classic tale, with a Christmas theme.

"He went to church, and walked about the streets, and watched the people hurrying to and fro, and patted the children on the head, and questioned beggars, and looked down into the kitchens of houses, and up to the windows; and found that everything could yield him pleasure. He had never dreamed that any walk - that anything - could give him so much happiness."

Remember - if you think you know the title of the book this quote comes from, give me a call. You might be the winner!

Library hours are Monday, 2-5 p.m.; Tuesday - Thursday, 1 - 6 p.m. and Friday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. See you at the Library!

**Will my tree make it? Assessing pine and shade tree damage from drought**

COLLEGE STATION, Texas - Texas remains mired in one of the worst droughts in state history and it's creating disastrous effects on trees and forests across the state.

After one of the driest years on record, many shade trees went into dormancy as early as August, dropping their leaves and branches in a desperate act of self-preservation. Pine trees with normally thick, green crowns ended up cloaked in red, dead needles while foliage on cedar trees turned completely brown.

The sight has created a dramatic effect on the Texas landscape and left many landowners wondering whether or not their tree is dead - or if it might recover and produce new leaves next spring.

Assessing trees damaged or killed by drought can be tricky, according to Dr. Ronald Billings, Texas Forest Service Forest Health Manager. He suggests grouping the trees into three different categories - definitely dead, likely to live and questionable - to help with the task.

**Definitely Dead**  
It is easier to make this call for pines, Ashe junipers (cedars) and other needle-bearing, conifer trees. The determination can be more difficult for hardwoods, which are more commonly thought of as shade trees. In most cases, a red pine is a dead pine, Billings said, explaining that the same can be said for cedars with red needles. Once all or most of the foliage of a pine or cedar tree turns red or brown, the tree is incapable of recovering.

Pine trees in this stage probably are already infested with tree-killing bark beetles and will eventually harbor wood-boring insects, termites and other critters. Such trees should be cut down and removed, particularly if they are likely to fall on homes, buildings or power lines.

Shade trees - like water oaks, for example - that have lost all their foliage and are beginning to drop limbs or lose large patches of bark are most likely already dead and should be removed. Hypoxylon canker, a fungus that appears as gray or brown patches on the trunk of the tree, is another sign of a dead shade tree.

Likely to Live

This category includes shade trees with at least some green or yellow leaves still attached to the limbs. In fact, even those that have dropped all their leaves may still be alive. Some native shade trees, such as post oaks and live oaks, are more drought resistant than others like water oaks or elms.

You can use a scratch test to determine if the tree is dead or just dormant. If you scrape the bark off a small branch or limb and find green, moist tissue underneath, the tree is still hanging on, waiting for the next rain. That means you may need to wait until spring to see if the tree makes a recovery - unless the tree starts to drop large branches and patches of bark, which is a sign of death. If there is no green, moist tissue, the tree is likely dead.

An exception is the baldcypress, which also is known as a cypress tree. The tree is a conifer, but unlike pines and cedars, its foliage generally turns red and drops from the tree in the fall or during periods of drought stress. Cypress trees usually will re-sprout in the spring. If in doubt, apply the scratch test or wait until spring to be sure.

Pines with a few yellow or red needles scattered throughout an otherwise green canopy have a good chance at survival. Pine trees typically shed a large portion of their older needles every year as winter approaches, and then put on new needles in the spring.

Though it's not as feasible to water your forest, any yard trees that show signs of life (green inner tissues or green foliage) should be watered deeply to reduce lingering drought stress.

**Questionable**  
Questionable trees are those that appear to fit somewhere between the Definitely Dead and Likely to Live categories.

A pine that is topped with brown or red needles but still has green foliage in its lower branches is alive, but likely will eventually die. That's because bark beetles likely will invade the lower trunk at some point, killing the tree in stages.

When inspecting a questionable pine tree, look for popcorn-sized masses of resin (pitch tubes) or brown dust in the bark fissures. These are early signs of attacks by pine bark beetles. The foliage of the infested pine

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may still be green, but the tree is doomed. This is particularly true if you find bark beetle galleries or trails beneath the bark. Pines with these signs of bark beetle attack should be removed as soon as possible.

In the case of shade trees, those that have many dead or dying limbs or mostly bare branches may or may not survive. A few green, yellow or red leaves may remain for a while as the tree slowly dies, or it may recover when rains return.

It's important to note that not all trees may be stressed from the drought alone. Some trees may also be suffering from insect infestations, disease or

other forest health problems. If you're unsure or have any questions, visit the Texas Forest Service web site or check with a certified arborist, forester or tree care professional.

Deciding whether to remove a questionable tree can be a tough decision for both property owners and professional tree care experts. Removal should be considered if a severely drought-stressed or fire-damaged tree is close to a house or other structure on which it might fall. If it is away from such areas, it may be more feasible to wait and see if the tree makes a comeback.

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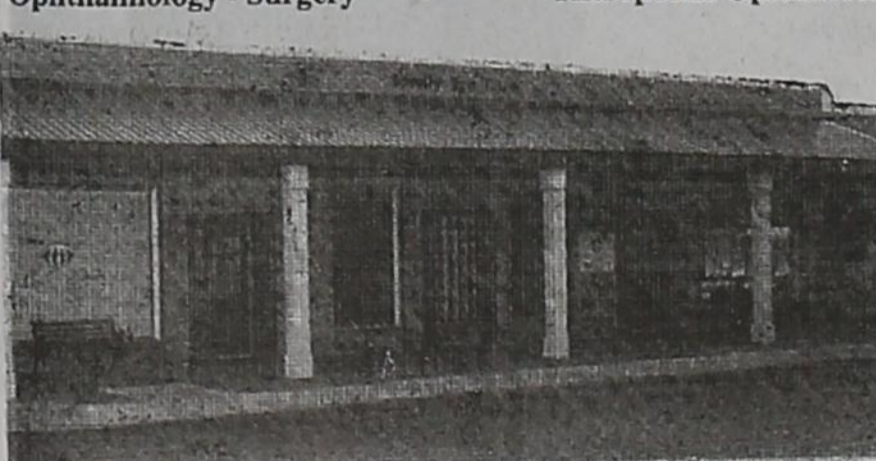
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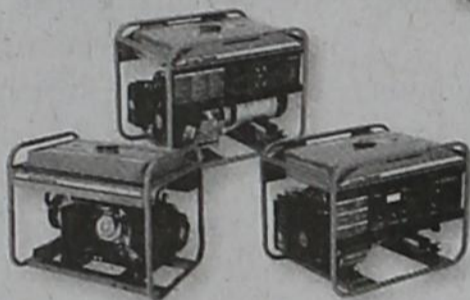
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**Texas State Parks Announce \$4.6 million Appeal for Help:  
Record heat, drought, wildfires spark call for park visits, donations**

AUSTIN – The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department today held 11 news conferences at different locations across the state, appealing to the public to visit state parks and make donations to help offset a revenue loss caused by heat, drought, wildfires and a resulting drop in park visitor revenue.

"A 'triple whammy' of record heat and drought, devastating wildfires and a corresponding decline in visitation and revenue has created a critical need for Texas State Parks," said Carter Smith, TPWD executive director. "So, we are reaching out for help."

TPWD held news conferences at the following state parks or other locations in cities across Texas: McKinney Falls/Austin, Government Canyon/San Antonio, Sheldon Lake/Houston, Cedar Hill/Dallas-Fort Worth, Abilene SP/Abilene, Amarillo Convention and Visitors Council office/Amarillo, Mustang Island/Corpus Christi, State Parks Office/El Paso, Estero Llano Grande/Rio Grande Valley, Tyler SP/Tyler, and Mother Neff/Waco.

Visitor fees fund about half the \$69 million operating budget for the state park system, subject to legislative appropriations. For many years, there's been a steady upward trend, with more people visiting parks generating more revenue to operate them—until this year.

Through the summer and into early fall, traditionally a busy time for parks, many Texans stayed home because of the dry heat. Shriveling lakes and rivers disrupted swimming, fishing and boating, and burn

bans prevented campfires. Also, three popular state parks—Bastrop, Davis Mountains and Possum Kingdom—suffered major wildfire damage and produced no revenue for weeks, though all are now back open to varying degrees.

As a result, in August state park system revenue declined 25 percent compared to the same month last year. So far this fall revenue is down 11 percent—improving, but still not close to what park leaders say is needed.

"The bottom line is we have a \$4.6 million gap in our 2012 park system operating budget," Smith said. "This is the amount we need to raise to help keep state parks open. We want to alert people now while there is still time to help."

TPWD is rolling out a multifaceted awareness campaign stressing three calls to action:

One, go to [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/help\\_parks](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/help_parks) to make a tax-deductible, year-end donation.

Two, starting Jan. 1, make a donation when you renew your motor vehicle registration.

And, most important, because visitor fees pay for about half of park system operating costs, visit state parks.

"Cooler weather makes fall and winter a fine time to visit state parks, which are great places for holiday outings and gatherings," said Brent Leisure, TPWD state parks director. "Also, recent rains are allowing many of our parks to lift burn bans. That's making campfires possible once again, an important tradition for many park visitors."

Leisure said state parks are

important for many reasons. They protect unique places and provide settings for healthy outdoor recreation and family fun for millions of people.

State parks are also economic engines for nature tourism. In a 2008 study, the Texas Comptroller found state parks draw outside tourists into host counties, generating millions in annual retail sales and local resident income.

The Texas State Parks operating budget is based on legislative appropriations, but relies on revenue generated by visitor fees. This year, an additional \$3 million in revenue was projected.

Also, the legislature passed a new option that allows people to make a donation when they renew their motor vehicle registration, estimating that would raise at least \$1.6 million per year. Starting Jan. 1 drivers can donate \$5 or more when renewing their registration by mail, at the county tax office or online in counties offering online payment.

"The state park system 2012 budget was set anticipating those two items would raise a total of \$4.6 million," Smith said. "But the money is not there because park visitation and revenue are down markedly due to drought and wildfires, and the vehicle registration donation program is just getting underway for renewals due in January."

The department is also providing video, radio, web and social media resources for the media and public, all emphasizing the same three calls to action.

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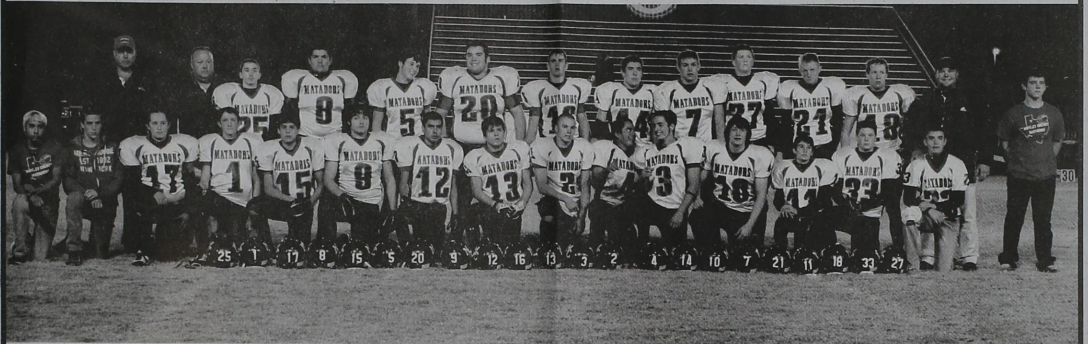
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## EVENTS CALENDAR

### December

- 12 Roaring Springs City Council
- 13 Kid's Christmas Holiday Countdown, Library, 4:00 p.m.
- 14 Hospital Bd meets in the back of the ambulance barn, 7 am
- 15 Matador Masonic Lodge, 6:30 pm
- 20 Matador Lions
- 24 First United Methodist, Matador, Carols and Candlelight Service, Christmas Eve, 7:00 pm.
- 24 Christmas Mass, 5:00p.m. at Our Lady Of Guadalupe Church in Matador.

### January

- 9 Motley County Arts and Crafts Club, Motley County Senior Citizen Center in Matador from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

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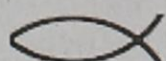
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